



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

D1 Cooperative Reports

April 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Jon McCracken and Sarah Marrinan
Other presenters: Representatives of the Cooperatives
Action Required: Annual review of Cooperative Reports

BACKGROUND

The Council has developed several cooperative programs as components of larger catch share programs. Under these programs, cooperatives have been required or requested to provide an annual report. These reports are intended as a resource for the Council to track the effectiveness of the cooperative and their ability to meet the Council's goal for the programs. Additionally, they are a tool for the cooperatives to provide feedback on the programs to the Council. In general, these reports are presented by cooperative managers during the April meeting. An infographic summarizing the cooperative reports is provided below and will be posted on the cooperative reports webpage. In addition, a table that provides a more expanded overview of mandatory and voluntary elements of the different cooperative reports is included in this action memo, as well as a list of active cooperatives and the status of their 2018 fishing year annual report (2018/19 for the crab fisheries).

As a reminder, for any requests, deletions, and/or clarifications of information provided in the cooperative reports (voluntary or otherwise), the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requires Federal agencies (1) to seek public comment on proposed collections and (2) to submit proposed collections for review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB reviews agency information collection requests for approval and disapproval. The PRA should not discourage the Council from making requests for voluntary cooperative information to be included in future cooperative reports. Rather, this guidance advises the Council to pursue voluntary information requests in a deliberative manner, providing clear explanation of the objective of the new information. Council and NMFS staff will track these Council information requests and submit the necessary PRA paperwork to OMB, so a clear explanation for requests is helpful.

(a) AFA Co-op reports

In 1998, Congress established the American Fisheries Act specifically for the pollock fishery in the BSAI management area. Among other things, the AFA encouraged domestic enterprise in Alaskan fisheries and established provisions for the creation of fishery cooperatives in three sectors: at sea catcher processors, motherships, and inshore vessels. Cooperatives are given exclusive allocation of pollock based on their members' historical catch. See below for a list of AFA cooperative reports and Council presentations at this meeting.

(b) Amendment 80 Co-op reports

Implemented in 2008, the Amendment 80 Program is a limited access privilege program (LAPP) that allocates a portion of total allowable catch (TAC) for Atka mackerel, Pacific ocean perch, and 3 flatfish

species (yellowfin sole, rock sole, and flathead sole), along with an allocation of prohibited species catch (PSC) quota for halibut and crab, in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI), to the Amendment 80 sector. See below for a list of Amendment 80 cooperative reports and Council presentations at this meeting.

The Amendment 80 cooperatives also provide halibut bycatch management plans to the Council at the December meeting. That request originated from the Council during the June 2015 meeting. In addition, as part of the BSAI flatfish flexibility action (Amendment 105), the Council asked for information on flatfish exchanges, cooperative transfers, and actual harvest. NMFS provides this information as part of their December inseason management report.

(c) CGOA Rockfish Co-op reports

In 2007, the Central GOA Pilot Rockfish Program was implemented. The program was intended to enhance resource conservation and improve economic efficiency for harvesters and processors who participated in the program. Allocations of the primary rockfish species (Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, and pelagic rockfish) and important incidental catch species (i.e., sablefish, Pacific cod, shorttraker and rougheye rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish) are divided between the catcher vessel sector and the catcher processor sector. In addition, each sector is allocated halibut PSC limits based on historic catch of halibut in the target rockfish fisheries. As part of reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2007, the Pilot Program was extended until December 31, 2011. During that time, the Council completed action on Amendment 88 to the GOA Fishery Management Plan that revised the Rockfish Program and the amendment was implemented in 2012. See below for a list of CGOA Rockfish Program cooperative reports and Council presentations at this meeting.

(d) BSAI Crab Co-op reports

The BSAI Crab Rationalization program is a limited access privilege management program, which was implemented in 2005. The program issued harvest quota shares to vessel owners (License Limitation Program license holders) and captains, as well as issuing processor quota shares to processors based on their associated history. The crab rationalization program allows for the voluntary formation of harvesting cooperatives to coordinate crab harvest. If a quota share holder is associated with a cooperative, the annual pounds of IFQ that are derived from the quota share holder's quota is issued to their cooperative and able to be internally managed and harvested among its members. More than 99 percent of the crab rationalization harvesting quota share is harvested through cooperatives.

The BSAI Crab rationalization program as implemented in 2005 did not include a pre-established reporting requirement for cooperatives. In 2013, the Council reviewed an analysis evaluating the Council's management options for promoting active participation among lease holders, as well as lease rates, crew compensation, and active participation through flexible cooperative management. While the Council opted against a regulatory solution at that time, it requested that the industry use non-regulatory methods to address the Council's concerns. The Council requested an annual cooperative report for industry to report on the effectiveness of non-regulatory measures, noting that these reports would help the Council determine whether to take regulatory action in the future. The Council letter sent to each of the cooperatives requested that they voluntarily report on:

- QS transfers to active participant and crew members
- Lease rates
- Crew compensation rates

The letter also requests any additional information or data the cooperatives wish to provide demonstrating the effectiveness of existing measures and the level of participation in cooperative-established measures. The Council also recommended using the seven question/response format, as has been employed by many of the groups in the past, as their preferred reporting structure. See below for a list of BSAI Crab cooperative reports and Council presentations at this meeting.

Cooperative Reports

The Council has developed catch share programs including four that allow or require the formation of cooperatives. As part of these programs, cooperatives submit annual reports detailing the use of the cooperative quota or other aspects of the program.

AFA



- Implemented in 1998
- Key species – pollock
- Cooperatives - 9
- Active vessels – 100
- Program first wholesale value - \$1.2 billion
- Pounds landed – 2.6 billion

Cooperative Report Includes:

- Allocation and sub-allocation of pollock and sideboards
- Retained and discarded catch
- Cooperative monitoring methods
- Salmon bycatch numbers

BSAI Crab



- Implemented in 2005
- Key species – King and tanner crab
- Cooperatives - 9
- Active vessels – 72
- Program first wholesale value - \$220.8 million
- Pounds landed – 31.6 million

Cooperative Report Includes:

- Measures to increase availability of QS for transfer to active participants and crew members
- Measures to address high QS lease rates
- Measures to address low crew compensation

Amendment 80



- Implemented in 2008
- Key species – Flatfish, other groundfish
- Cooperatives - 1
- Active vessels – 19
- Program first wholesale value - \$352 million
- Pounds landed – 648.2 million

Cooperative Report Includes:

- Retained and discarded catch
- Directed and bycatch species transfers
- Cooperative monitoring methods
- Percent of groundfish retained

GOA Rockfish



- Implemented in 2012
- Key species – rockfish, cod, and sablefish
- Cooperatives - 7
- Active vessels – 29
- Program first wholesale value - \$34 million
- Pounds landed – 48.1 million

Cooperative Report Includes:

- Cooperative's quota and sideboard limit
- Retained and discarded catch
- Cooperative monitoring methods
- Monthly Chinook bycatch numbers

Summary of the cooperative reporting requirements and voluntary requests for information

Cooperative program	Required information	Voluntary information	Deadline	Recipient
AFA Cooperative Report	<p><i>Established in 50 CFR §679.61(f) as well as Section 210(a)(1)(B) of the AFA:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allocation of pollock and sideboard species to cooperative ▪ Sub-allocations of pollock and sideboard species on a vessel-by-vessel basis ▪ Retained and discarded catch on an area-by-area and vessel-by-vessel basis ▪ Method used to monitor fisheries ▪ Actions taken by cooperative against members that exceed catch or bycatch ▪ The total weight of pollock landed outside the State of Alaska on a vessel-by-vessel basis ▪ Number of salmon taken, by species and season ▪ Each vessel's number of appearances on the weekly "dirty 20" lists for non-Chinook salmon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AFA exempt vessel activity in the GOA ▪ Inter-temporal harvest information ▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting 	April 1 st	NPFMC
Chinook Salmon Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) Annual Report	<p><i>Established in 50 CFR 679.21(f)(13)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentive measures in effect in the previous year • How incentive measures affected individual vessels • How incentive measures affected salmon savings beyond current levels • IPA amendments approved by NMFS since the last annual report and the reasons for amendments • Sub-allocation to each participating vessel • Number of Chinook PSC and amount of pollock (mt) at the start of each fishing season • Number of Chinook PSC and amount of pollock (mt) caught at the end of each season • Inseason transfers among entities of Chinook salmon PSC or pollock among AFA cooperatives • Transfers among IPA vessels • Amount of pollock (mt) transferred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting 	April 1 st	NPFMC
Central GOA Rockfish Cooperative Report	<p><i>Established in 50 CFR 679.5(r)(6)(i):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperative's quota and sideboard limit ▪ Actual retained and discarded catch of Cooperative's retained and discarded catch of CQ and sideboard limit by statistical area and vessel-by-vessel basis ▪ Method used by cooperative to monitor fisheries ▪ Actions taken by cooperative in response to members that exceeded their catch allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inter-temporal harvest information ▪ Monthly Chinook bycatch numbers by stock of origin (pull from NMFS in-season management reports) ▪ Use consistent terminology ▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting 	December 15 st	NMFS

Cooperative program	Required information	Voluntary information	Deadline	Recipient
<p>Amendment 80 Cooperative Report</p>	<p><i>Established in 50 CFR 679.5(s)(6)(i):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actual retained and discarded catch of CQ and GOA sideboard limit by area and by vessel ▪ Information on the directed and bycatch species transfers by species, amount, and date ▪ Method used to monitor fisheries ▪ Actions taken by co-ops against members that exceed assigned CQ ▪ The percent of groundfish retained by the cooperative relative to aggregate groundfish retained by all Amendment 80 co-ops ▪ Results from a third-party audit on cooperatives annual groundfish retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catch information from the Northern Bristol Bay Trawl Area ▪ A retrospective indication of Amendment 80 catch capacity ▪ Inter-temporal harvest information ▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting 	<p>March 1st</p>	<p>NMFS</p>
<p>Amendment 80 Halibut Bycatch Avoidance Progress Report and Management Plan</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of effective and verifiable measures for halibut avoidance ▪ Performance measurement and assessment at the boat and company level ▪ Voluntary presentation at December Council meeting 	<p>December Council meeting</p>	<p>NPFMC</p>
<p>Crab Rationalization Cooperative Report</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase availability of QS for transfer to active participants and crew members ▪ Decrease high QS lease rates ▪ Improve low crew compensation ▪ Voluntary presentation at April Council meeting 	<p>April Council meeting</p>	<p>NPFMC</p>

List of cooperative reports

	Cooperative Name	Submitted Annual Report	Council Presentation
AFA Cooperatives	Catcher Vessel Intercooperative	Yes	John Gruver
	Peter Pan Fleet Cooperative	Yes	
	Unisea Fleet Cooperative	Yes	
	Westward Fleet Cooperative	Yes	
	Unalaska Fleet Cooperative	Yes	
	Akutan Catcher Vessel Cooperative	Yes	
	Northern Victor Fleet Cooperative	Yes	
	Mothership Fleet Cooperative	Yes	
	Pollock Conservation Cooperative & High Seas Catchers' Cooperative	Yes	Stephanie Madsen

Current as of 3/27/19

Amendment 80 Cooperatives	Cooperative Name	Submitted Annual Report	Council Presentation
	Alaska Seafood Cooperative	Yes	Beth Concepcion

Current as of 3/27/19

	Cooperative Name	Submitted Annual Report	Council Presentation
CGOA Rockfish Cooperatives	ISA Rockfish Cooperative	Yes	Julie Bonney
	North Pacific Rockfish Cooperative	Yes	
	OBSI Rockfish Cooperative	Yes	
	Star of Kodiak Rockfish Cooperative	Yes	
	Western Alaska Fisheries Rockfish Cooperative	Yes	
	Pacific Rockfish Cooperative	Yes	
	Best Use Cooperative	Yes	Christopher Oliver

Current as of 3/27/19

	Cooperative Name	Submitted Annual Report	Council Presentation
BSAI Crab Cooperatives	Alaska King Crab Harvesters Cooperative		
	Aleutian Island Cooperative	Yes	
	Alternative Crab Exchange (ACE)	Yes	Gretar Gudmundsson
	Coastal Villages Crabbing Cooperative	Yes	
	Crab Producers and Harvesters Association	Yes	
	Dog Boat Cooperative	Yes	Caitlin Yeager
	Inter-cooperative Exchange (ICE)	Yes	Joe Sullivan and Jake Jacobsen
	R & B Cooperative		
	Trident Affiliated Crab Harvesting Cooperative	Yes	

Current as of 3/26/19, subject to updates